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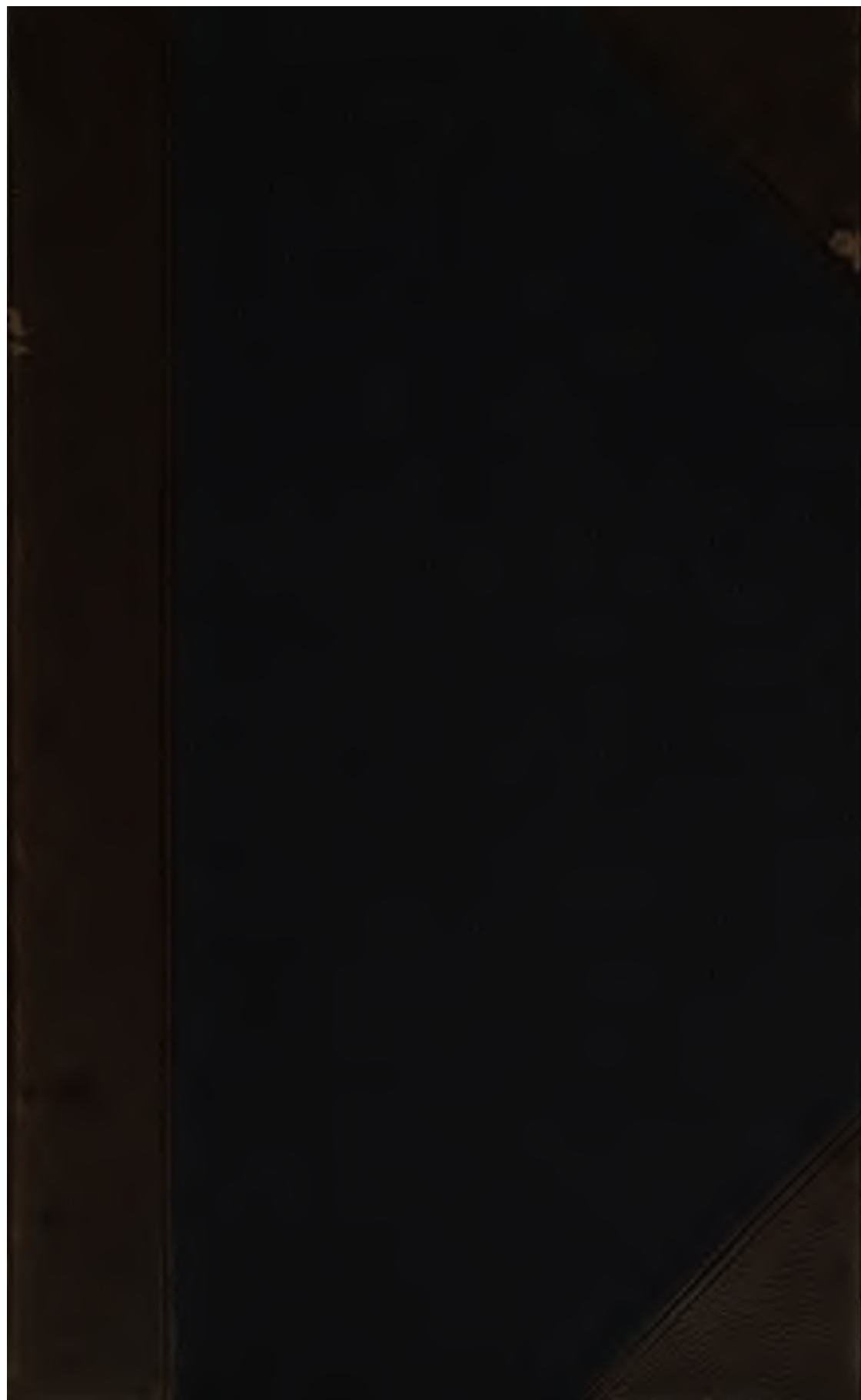
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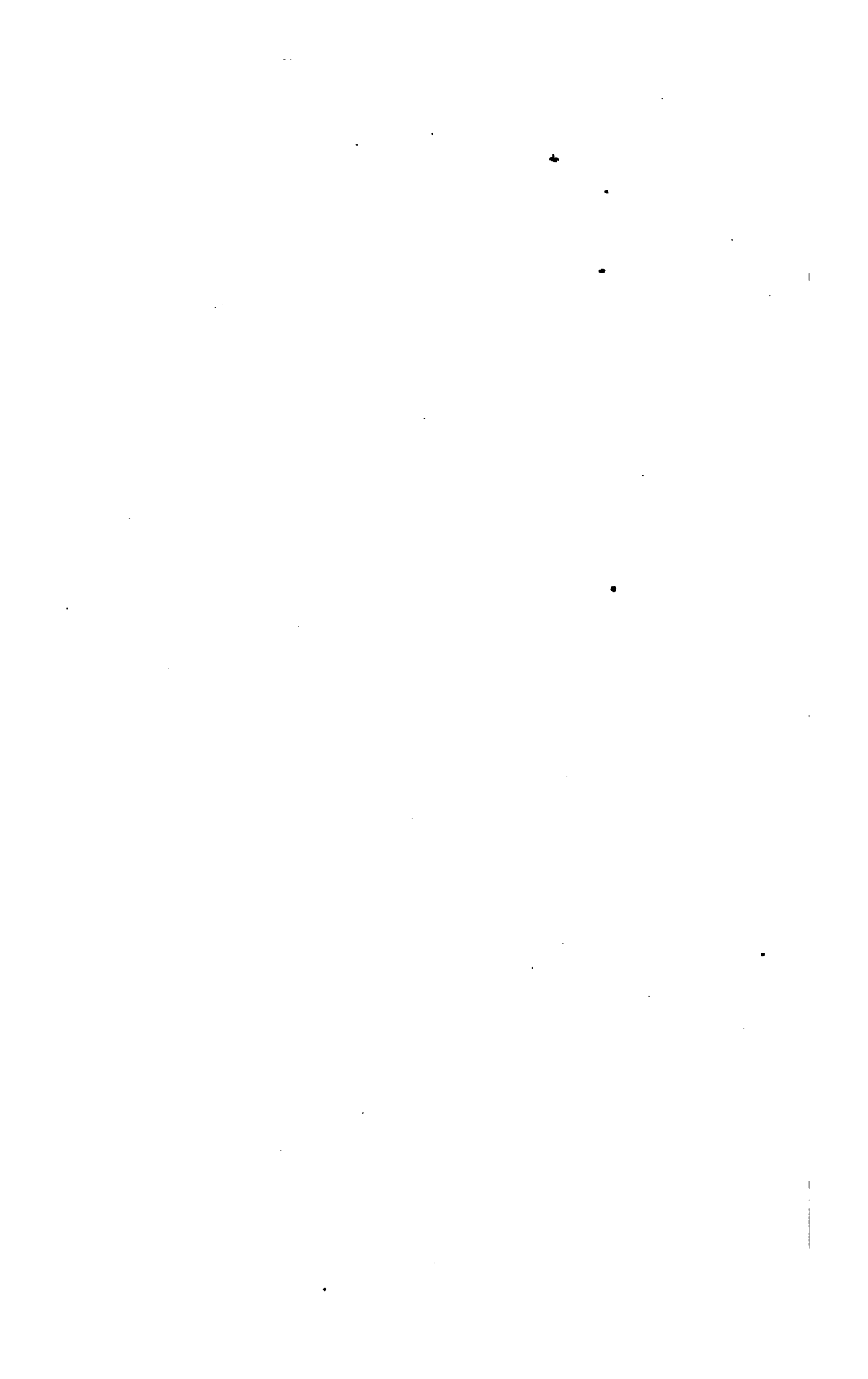


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Yours affectionately
C. Pearson

A
BIOGRAPHICAL
MEMOIR

OF
THE LATE EDWARD PEARSON, D. D.
MASTER OF SIDNEY SUSSEX COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE,
AND CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE IN THAT UNIVERSITY.

By THOMAS GREEN, Esq.



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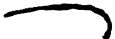
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## BIOGRAPHICAL

### MEMOIR.

**T**HE REV. EDWARD PEARSON was born on the 25th of October, 1756, in the city of Norwich. He was never placed at any Public School : and though he derived some advantages from private instruction, may fairly be considered as having laid, himself, the foundation of all his future attainments, in that habit of steady and unwearied application, which he ever afterwards retained, with little relaxation, to the latest period of his life. In 1778 he was entered at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge ; and proceeded to the degree of B. A. 1782 ; and M. A. 1785. In 1786 he obtained the Norrisian Prize for an " Essay on the Goodness of God as manifested in the Mission of Jesus Christ ;"



which was soon afterwards published, in conformity to the will of the Founder. In 1792 he took the degree of B. D. During a considerable period Mr. Pearson had filled the situation of Tutor to the College (an office for which he was, in every respect, pre-eminently qualified) in a manner equally creditable to himself, and advantageous to the Society; and in 1797 he was presented by his kind and esteemed Friend, Dr. Elliston, the Master, to the Rectory of Rempstone, Nottinghamshire. In the same year he married Susan, the Daughter of Richard Johnson, Esq. of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden. In 1807 he was chosen by the Trustees to preach the Warburtonian Lectures at Lincoln's Inn, which he completed early in 1811. In 1808, on the death of Dr. Elliston, he was elected Master of Sidney Sussex College; on which occasion he received, by Royal Mandate, the degree of D. D.: and in the same year was appointed Vice-Chancellor. In 1810 he was elected by the University to the office of Christian Advocate. The arduous duties connected with these various and important appointments, had visibly affected his health, though no serious apprehensions were entertained for his safety: but whilst taking his customary

walk in the garden of his Parsonage, at Rempstone, he was suddenly attacked with an apoplectic seizure, from which he never recovered sufficiently to articulate; and expired, after a few days illness, to the unspeakable anguish of his relatives and friends, and the deep regret of all who had the happiness to know him, on the 17th of August, 1811.

The literary character of Dr. Pearson is best collected from his writings. These, it is evident, are not contentiously or ambitiously composed—for victory or fame; but bear, upon the face of them, the impress of a calm, acute, discriminating mind, intent on the discharge of some particular duty. They offer no pretensions to eloquence, indeed, in the ordinary sense of that term; for the writer appears to have proceeded too much on the principle of regarding those whom he addressed, as beings, like himself, whose conduct, on all important occasions, would be determined solely by their judgment; and whose judgment could be influenced only, by a direct appeal to their reason: but as argumentative pieces, of this character, they

possess particular claims to our attention: whatever be the subject treated, it is sure to be placed in some new and striking light; the utmost calmness and candour are combined with a serious and earnest endeavour to satisfy the mind, as well as to convince it; and the whole is conveyed in language, utterly free from every taint of affectation, though singularly exact, precise, and apposite.

His writings were the pure emanations of the man: and that they exhibit merit of no common order, may be inferred from the remarkable circumstance, that the late Mr. Perceval, whilst high in office, was induced, from their perusal alone, to find out the Author in his privacy; to solicit his friendship; and to cultivate a confidential intercourse with him, which terminated only with his life:—a connection as honourable to the Statesman, who sought a sincere and judicious adviser, in preference to a zealous partizan; as to the Churchman, who imparted his thoughts on ecclesiastical affairs most honestly and conscientiously, without the remotest view to any personal advantage.

In politics he rarely, if ever, took an active part. He appeared, in general, favourably disposed to-

wards the measures of government, partly from a serious sense of the christian duty of submission; and partly from a presumption which he indulged, that those measures, under the correctives of our happy constitution, would, in most instances, be consonant to policy and justice: but he was no blind or bigoted adherent: he never scrupled to lament what he conceived to be the errors of those in power; and he was always inclined to put the most liberal construction on the motives and characters of their opponents.

Dr. Pearson's piety was deep and fervent, but by no means of an austere or repulsive character: it mingled, on the contrary, in the kindest manner with the whole texture of his thoughts and actions; and blending hope with resignation, shed a cheerful serenity and perpetual sunshine on his mind, through all the vicissitudes of life.

To the Established Church he was warmly attached, from a fixed persuasion that it exhibited the most pure and perfect system of discipline and doctrines, extant in the christian world; but this attachment was accompanied with no feelings of



bitterness or intolerance towards those, who, from deliberate scruples of conscience, found it impracticable to come within her pale. If any thing like resentment, on religious grounds, existed in his mind, it was confined to those, who, he conceived, were labouring, and with but too much success, to subvert her character *from within*, by the revival of certain gloomy, harsh, and revolting doctrines, which she had either never explicitly avowed; or which, at any rate, improving with the improving spirit of the times, she had long since, by the general consent of all parties, virtually and substantially renounced.

As a parish priest, impressed, as he was, with an awful sense of the obligations of so important a charge, he seemed completely to realise the idea of a primitive pastor. Not content with the scrupulous performance of his prescribed duties as a minister, he instituted an evening lecture, in addition to double service, upon Sundays; attended, for a length of time, each Week-day in the church, for the purpose of reading portions of the Liturgy and expounding passages of Scripture; rigorously presided over the moral and religious instruction of the children; and, above all, cultivated that personal acquaint-

ance with his flock, which enabled him, in the most effectual manner, to administer, as occasion required, his admonitions, advice, or consolation.

But perhaps the scene in which this incomparable Man appeared most engaging, was one, which sometimes proves a severe trial, even to sterling worth; and is ever a sure exposé of empty pretensions—the quiet intercourse of domestic society. As a friend and companion, he was truly delightful: the more you saw of him, the more you wished to see; and the more reluctantly you parted. Though never shunning serious discussion, when it arose, and admirably qualified to take the lead in such conversation, he never courted it; but seemed rather to luxuriate in an easy pleasantry and playful humour, peculiarly his own—quite enchanting to such friends as knew the real value of the man, and captivating even to those who were little aware of the talents and attainments which this sportiveness concealed.

In the inmost recesses of this kind Being, but trained by constant discipline, and known only, in its sensibilities, to the most confidential of his friends, throbbed a heart exquisitely tender and susceptible.

May it be permitted to the writer of this brief memorial of a dear departed Friend, to add, personally, at the close, that, with little affinity either in political or religious sentiment to the Object of it, it is his pride and pleasure to reflect, that during the continuance of a long, intimate, and most confidential intercourse between them, there never occurred, to the best of his remembrance, a single jar; and that in his walk through life—a busy journey once, though now an evening stroll, and solitary, too—it has never been his good fortune to meet with any character, which, on a deliberate review, he can pronounce so truly amiable, estimable, and exemplary, as that which he has here endeavoured, however imperfectly, to commemorate.

*IPSWICH, January 14th, 1819.*



